



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10**

1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900
Seattle, Washington 98101-3140

March 2, 2009

Reply To
Attn Of: ETPA-088

Ref: 07-013-CGD

Shannon Kasa, Project Manager
Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center
53560 Hull Street
San Diego, CA 92152-5001

Dear Ms. Kasa:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Swimmer Interdiction Security System (SISS) project (CEQ No. 20080531) in Kitsap County, WA. Our review was conducted in accordance with our responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act. Section 309 directs EPA to review and comment in writing on the environmental impacts associated with all major federal actions.

Based on our review, we have assigned an LO (Lack of Objections) rating to the Preferred Alternative. This rating and a summary of our comments will be published in the Federal Register. For your reference, a copy of our rating system used in conducting our review is enclosed.

The draft EIS includes good analyses of resources that would be impacted, potential environmental impacts, and mitigation measures for the impacts. The analysis of project-generated water quality constituents of concern (e.g. fecal coliform bacteria and biological oxygen demand) in the draft EIS concludes that water quality standards will not be exceeded.

We were pleased to note that the Navy will coordinate with the Washington State Department of Ecology and EPA to develop a water quality monitoring program, including establishment of baseline conditions. The project area is within Hood Canal, which is sensitive and vulnerable to water quality and habitat impacts. As an active member of the Puget Sound Partnership, EPA strongly supports the strategic priorities that have been established to protect and restore this important resource. We encourage the Navy to continue to partner with others involved in Hood Canal restoration programs to ensure coordination of ecosystem restoration activities.

If you would like to discuss our comments, please contact Theo Mbabaliye at (206) 553-6322 or myself at (206) 553-1601. Thank you for the opportunity to review this draft EIS.

Sincerely,

/s/

Christine B. Reichgott, Manager
Environmental Review and Sediment Management Unit

Enclosures